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Wichita Public Library Foundation Receives \$100,000 Gift from Dr. John Hyde to support the Capital Campaign.

The Wichita Public Library Foundation announced today a \$100,000 gift from Dr. John M. Hyde as part of its "Margin of Excellence Campaign" to build Wichita's new Advanced Learning Library.

Don Barry, Chairperson for the Wichita Public Library Foundation, is proud that Dr. Hyde continues to support the community efforts in Wichita. "Dr. Hyde serves on the Wichita Public Library Foundation Board of Directors and regularly attends meetings even though he currently lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts. For him to support our local library with this type of gift is simply amazing."

"I can't think of a better entity to support in Wichita than its library," said Dr. John Hyde, former Wichitan, Professor Emeritus of History at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts and grandson of A.A. Hyde, Mentholatum inventor. "The Hyde family and Wichita have had a beautiful philanthropic relationship over the years. To support a project that invests in the knowledge of the community and the preservation of its history seems to me a fitting place for my gift."

Dr. Hyde's grandfather, A.A. Hyde invented Mentholatum, the aromatic ointment, over 125 years ago in a kitchen stove located in a building that is still standing across from the old Mentholatum building on Douglas St. His business became highly successful and created tremendous wealth for the family. According to the Wichita Eagle (October 15, 2014), "...He was (A.A. Hyde) different from most businessmen in that he was generous with his salary. And although his money went to charitable organizations around the world, he was most generous to Wichita."

The Hyde philanthropy can be seen in the naming of Hyde Elementary School, Hyde Camp (YMCA), and Hyde Park. "He was a man of not great wealth, says Dr. Hyde. "When he died his estate was valued at \$1 or \$2 million. So he was a man of not great wealth but great generosity."

Dr. Hyde, his family and the Hyde Foundation continue to support the library's local history department and outreach.

"We knew that this campaign was going to need support from families and friends who have a deep belief in the success of Wichita. Dr. John Hyde is one of those people who continues to bestow his generosity on our community," says, Mary Lynn Oliver, Honorary Chairperson.

The Advanced Learning Library Capital Campaign serves to augment the City's \$30 million investment in what is being called "a community keystone project." The campaign has secured more than \$6.2 million toward its \$8 million goal.

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